

The public's airwaves have been co-opted by the nefarious forces of partisanship.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is just one more example of the dangers of media consolidation and the power that falls into too few hands to determine what we can or can't watch, listen to and read in this country.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Airing a questionable film about a presidential candidate without rebuttal is hardly a service to the electorate. When large companies control the airwaves, we see and hear only what benefits the owners of these media conglomerates: whether it be a particular political or social view or repression of shows with views that do not always agree with theirs. The centralization that occurs through media consolidation leads to more generic human interests stories and far less news that has an impact on the communities being served. We need to see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Their blatant partisanship is a black spot upon the democratic ideals of public airwaves. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.